

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

D2 The present technology is directed to providing facilities to manipulate containee objects within container objects. In one respect, an application that creates a container object is called a client, and an application that creates or manipulates a containee object is called a server. For example, a client can select among the various containee objects within the container object, and request via a client library, a proper server to manipulate the selected containee object. A server can manipulate the contents of a containee object in response to a request received from the client via a server library.

In another respect, clients and servers can be provided with implementation-independent client libraries and server libraries, respectively, that provide object linking and embedding functionality between clients and servers. The client and server libraries provide a set of routines that manage, among other things, the setup and initialization for clients to send and receive messages and data to and from servers. The client library provides routines which invoke the correct server application to act upon a particular containee object. The server library provides routines which process requests to manipulate containee objects.

In one implementation, client applications and server applications are separate processes. The client process includes client application code, a client library, and a container object. The server process includes server application code, a server library, and containee objects. In such an implementation, a client library can communicate with a server library through a communications channel. The client library and server library can be dynamically linked with the client application code and server application code, respectively, when an application process is started up. However, the client library and server library could be implemented as processes separate from the client and server processes.

Additional features and advantages will be made apparent from the following detailed description of the illustrated embodiment which proceeds with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, line 19, with the following paragraph:

D3 In addition to the client and server libraries, the object linking and embedding facilities of the present invention provide information to client and server applications through a persistent